

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

WWW.NCPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

September 8, 2009

TO LEA Superintendents
Charter School Directors

FROM June St. Clair Atkinson *JSA*

SUBJECT Transition Plan for Competency and Computer Skills

To comply with Senate Bill 202/S.L. 2009-451, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) eliminated, effective July 1, 2009, the Competency Tests in Reading and Mathematics and the Computer Skills Tests and their alternate assessments. Because there are students who have failed to meet the competency and/or computer skills proficiency standards, a *Transition Plan for Competency and Computer Skills* (see attachment) was developed by the NCDPI to address the graduation requirements for these students.

On September 3, 2009, the State Board of Education received the NCDPI's plan. To help ensure that students, parents, and other stakeholders receive information concerning the elimination of the competency and computer skills proficiency requirements, we ask that you share this plan locally so that students who have not met the requirements may begin taking advantage of this opportunity to receive their diplomas. If you should have any questions regarding the *Transition Plan*, please contact Nancy Carolan at (919) 807-3781 or Hope Tesh at (919) 807-3425.

We sincerely appreciate the assistance your school system will provide to inform stakeholders of this new policy.

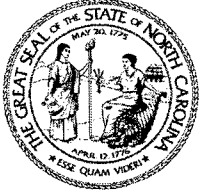
JSA:nc

c: LEA Test Coordinators/Directors
Regional Accountability Coordinators
LEA Exceptional Children Program Directors
Rebecca Garland
Angela Quick
Katie Cornetto
Lou Fabrizio
Gary Williamson
Mary Watson
Cindy Williamson
Tammy Howard
Sarah McManus
Vanessa Jeter

Attachment

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER



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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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September 2, 2009

Transition Plan for Competency and Computer Skills

Elimination of Competency and Computer Skills

To comply with Senate Bill 202/S.L. 2009-451, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) eliminated, effective July 1, 2009, the Competency Tests in Reading and Mathematics and the Computer Skills Tests and their alternate assessments. Because there are students who have failed to meet the competency and/or computer skills proficiency standards, a transition plan to address the graduation requirements for these students has been developed to include the following:

- **For Students Currently Enrolled:** Effective July 1, 2009, all *currently enrolled public school students* who have not met proficiency on the North Carolina Reading and/or Mathematics Competency Test(s) and/or the North Carolina Computer Skills Test(s) and/or their alternate assessment(s), are no longer required to meet the competency or computer skills standards.
 - In order to receive a high school diploma, these students' school records and/or documentation must show that all state and local board requirements have been met. If these students' school records and/or documentation show that all state and local board requirements have been met, these students may be granted diplomas.

- **For Students Not Enrolled:** Effective July 1, 2009, students *not enrolled* in a public school who have met all state and local graduation requirements except for achieving proficiency on the North Carolina Reading and/or Mathematics Competency Test(s) and/or the North Carolina Computer Skills Test(s) and/or their alternate assessment(s), are no longer required to meet the competency or computer skills standards. These students may petition their former school for a diploma.
 - In order to receive a high school diploma, these students' school records and/or documentation must show that all state and local board requirements have been met. If these students' school records and/or documentation show that all state and local board requirements have been met, these students may be granted diplomas.
 - If a student was enrolled in a charter school that is no longer in operation, the student may petition the LEA of the student's residence.
 - Students' petitions for diplomas that meet the above mentioned requirements will be honored only during a five year window spanning July 1, 2009–July 1, 2014.

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Notification to Stakeholders

To help ensure that students, parents, and other stakeholders receive information concerning the elimination of the competency and computer skills proficiency standards, the NCDPI will provide the following:

- Letters will be sent to LEA superintendents and charter school directors, the North Carolina Community College System, and the Employment Security Commission to inform them of the elimination of the graduation requirements for competency and computer skills and the procedures students must follow for obtaining diplomas.
- Information regarding the elimination of the tests and the procedures students may follow to obtain their diplomas will be posted on the NCDPI Accountability Services Web site.
- A TNN (Testing News Network) announcement on the test elimination policy/procedures will be posted for Regional Accountability Coordinators and LEA Test Directors/Coordinators.
- Test elimination information will be sent out to the various email groups maintained by NCDPI.
- Announcements concerning the test elimination policy and procedures will be made at the Accountability Conference, Exceptional Children's Conference, and other NCDPI conferences/meetings.